

## ***EURYSA BRUNNEA* MELICHAR, 1896 (HEMIPTERA: DELPHACIDAE) NEW TO BRITAIN**

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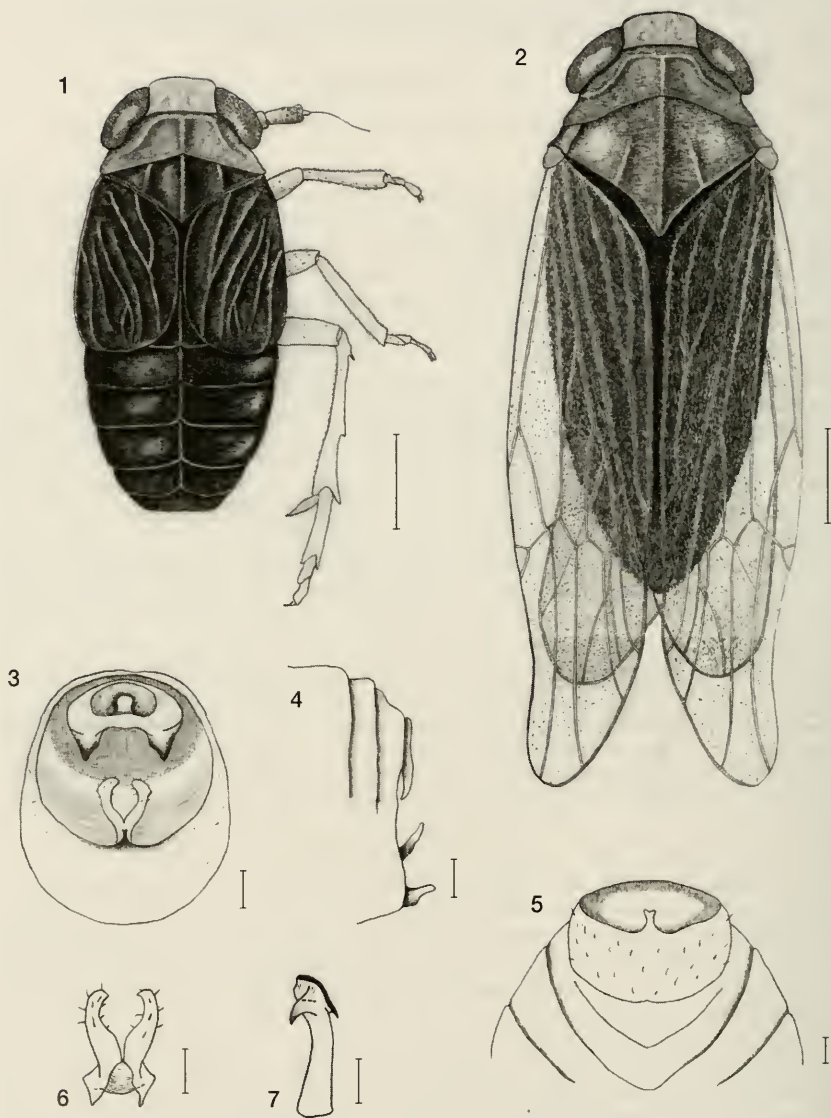
A macropterous female of this delphacid planthopper was collected at Roundhill SSSI (SO9438) near Westmancote, Worcs. on 25.v.1992 by P. F. Whitehead, who sent the specimen to me for identification. The near-obsolete keels on the vertex and face immediately placed it in the genus *Eurysa*, but the combination of very dark body coloration and habitat strongly suggested that it was not one of the three species previously recorded in Britain (Le Quesne, 1960: 35–7). The following season, a brachypterous male was caught on 5.vii.1993 within the same general area. Examination of the genitalia of the second specimen confirmed its identity as *Eurysa brunnea* Melichar, 1896 (= *Eurysa singeri* Gupta, 1941), a species new to Britain.

Both specimens were taken during general collecting in unimproved grazed calcareous grassland, dominated by *Bromus erectus* Huds. and *Brachypodium pinnatum* (L.) Beauv. The area contains wet flushes supporting communities dominated by *Juncus* spp. No association of the planthoppers with any particular species was noted.

The genus *Eurysa* Fieber currently includes 19 European species (Asche, 1994). The distribution of *E. brunnea* in continental Europe is very scattered; when recorded, it is never common. Nast (1972) lists it from Austria (the type locality), former Czechoslovakia, Germany, Hungary and Tunisia, although Drosopoulos *et al.* (1983) consider the last of these records to be very doubtful. Since Nast's list was published, Drosopoulos *et al.* (1983) have recorded it from north-west Greece. Its presence in France was first suggested by a single female caught in June 1984 at Bedouin, Mont Ventoux, Provence (Della Giustina & Remane, 1992); since then, several males have been caught on the north-east edge of the French Pyrenees (Remane & Frohlich, 1994; Della Giustina, *in litt.*). Remane & Frohlich (1994) considered that records from central Germany represented the species' northern limit. In this context, its discovery in Britain is particularly significant.

*E. brunnea* resembles the common *E. lineata* (Perris) in size, but the body is universally dark brown/black and therefore the pronotum and scutellum lack the longitudinal light and dark bands that are characteristic of the latter species. The dorsal appearance most closely fits Le Quesne's description of *Eurysa* (= *Eurysula*) *lurida*, but the male genital appendages are clearly different and in any case *lurida* is associated with very wet habitats. A more formal description follows, based on the two specimens caught.

Brachypterous male (Fig. 1): Frons uniformly mid-brown, median keel obsolescent, barely discernible at junction with vertex. Postclypeus and genae dark brown. Vertex uniform mid-brown, pronotum and scutellum dark brown, except anterior median part of pronotum bordering vertex which is paler. Wings mostly black/brown merging to mid-brown along internal margin; rest of wing margin narrowly pale, except along border with scutellum. Legs uniformly pale brown. Abdomen black dorsally, dark brown/black ventrally with sparse covering of very fine pale hairs, longer on ventral surface of genital segment. Overall length, 2.25 mm; wing length, 0.9 mm, width 0.75 mm. Genital segment only slightly taller than broad when viewed from behind (Fig. 3), squarely truncate when viewed laterally (Fig. 4), ventral margin with narrow central backward-pointing projection, approximately



Figs 1-7 *Eurysa brunnea*. 1: brachypterous male, dorsal view; 2: macropterous female, dorsal view; 3: male genital segment, rear view; 4: male genital segment, lateral view; 5: bifid projection on male genital segment, rear view; 6: parameres; 7: aedeagus (adapted from figure in Drosopoulos *et al.* (1983)). Scales: Figs 1 & 2, 0.5 mm; Figs 3-7, 0.1 mm.

0.1 mm long, bluntly bifid at apex (Fig. 5). Anal tube with broad and widely separated spines beneath, their length approximately half the distance between their bases, parallel or slightly divergent (Fig. 3), roughly triangular when viewed laterally. Parameres narrowing only slightly towards broadly blunt apex with inward pointing projection; overall profile goblet-shaped (Fig. 6). Aedeagus as in Fig. 7.

Macropterous female (Fig 2): Body coloration similar to male. Wings entirely hyaline, veins and margins pale yellow/brown darkening to mid-brown towards apical border. Overall length, 3.8 mm; wing length 3.0 mm, width 1.2 mm.

Little is known about the host plants or habitat requirements of this species. In Germany, it occurs on various grasses under trees (M. Asche, *in litt.*). In Greece, Drosopoulos *et al.* (1983) report collecting specimens from the lower parts of *Secale montanum*, a member of the Poaceae not native to Britain. The fact that it has been found in central England suggests that other areas of southern Britain may also be climatically favourable to it. If it follows the preference of its congeners for occupying the lower levels of dense vegetation (Kirby, 1992: 212–3), it may well have been widely overlooked.

I thank Manfred Asche for confirming the identity of the specimens and William Della Giustina for helpful correspondence.

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#### BOOK REVIEW

**New British Beetles: species not in Joy's practical handbook** by P. J. Hodge and R. A. Jones, BENHS, 1995, 192 pp, paperback, £18, hardback £24.—It is quite remarkable that the standard work on the identification of British beetles is still Joy's *A practical handbook of British beetles* (Witherby, 1932). While many families have subsequently been up-dated by RESL handbooks, and some groups covered by other publications, Joy